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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 122 (a) appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/50/792.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 56th and 64th meetings, on 6 and 31 May 1996. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.56 and 64).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/386/Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/50/694/Add.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/50/L.54

4. At the 64th meeting, on 31 May, the representative of Latvia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" (A/C.5/50/L.54), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.54 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974, by which the Council established the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1024 (1995) of 28 November 1995,

Recalling its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 50/20 of 1 December 1995,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

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1/ A/50/386/Add.1.

2/ A/50/694/Add.1.

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Suspense Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force have been used to meet expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions,

1. Notes the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 21 May 1996, including the contributions unpaid in the amount of 60,700,000 United States dollars, representing 5 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending on 31 May 1996, also notes that some 29 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peace-keeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 16,074,000 dollars gross (15,610,284 dollars net), authorized and apportioned by the General Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 50/20 for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 December 1995 to 31 May 1996;

8. Decides also to appropriate the amount of 2,679,000 dollars gross (2,601,714 dollars net), authorized by the General Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 50/20 for the period from 1 to 30 June 1996, the said amount to be apportioned among Member States in accordance with paragraphs 8 to 10 of the same resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 May 1996;

9. Decides further to appropriate the amount of 32,254,900 dollars gross (31,342,900 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 760,900 dollars for the

support account for peace-keeping operations, to be assessed on Member States at the monthly rate of 2,687,908 dollars gross (2,611,908 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996, and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1996 and 1997, as set out in resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and decision 50/451 A of 22 December 1995, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 May 1996;

10. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 897,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

11. Decides also that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the estimated other income of 15,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

12. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

13. Decides to keep the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", under the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East", under review during its fiftieth session.